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COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION
Thirty-first session
13 May-7 June 1991
Agenda item 7

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS THIRTY-FIRST SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Boris GOUDIMA (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

Section 5. Disarmament

1. At its 28th meeting, on 30 May 1991, the Committee considered section 5 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

2. Several delegations, in registering their support and appreciation of the overall work of the Department for Disarmament Affairs, expressed concern that the rate of real growth of 0.6 per cent did not properly reflect the high priority accorded to disarmament activities by the General Assembly. They expressed the hope that the implementation by the Department of its mandated activities would not be hindered by such a modest growth. Other delegations expressed the view that the proposed rate of real growth was too high.

3. Some delegations were of the view that continuing efforts to rationalize the work of the First Committee should, in turn, lead to a reduction in substantive servicing requirements by the Department.

4. Some delegations in expressing doubts about the continued relevance of the World Disarmament Campaign, questioned the scope of the disarmament publications programme given the changes in the international climate. Several other delegations expressed their support for the World Disarmament Campaign. Several delegations stressed the need for adequate resources to be allocated to it so that it might achieve its objectives.

5. One delegation expressed concern about the backlog in the publication of the Disarmament Yearbook and the periodical, Disarmament and called upon the Secretariat to eliminate the backlog. That delegation also sought assurances that adequate resources were included in the proposed programme budget for 1992-1993 for the production of disarmament publications in all official languages of the United Nations.

6. Some delegations expressed strong support for increased resources to be allocated for regional activities on disarmament in general and for regional centres for peace and disarmament, in particular. Others did not share this view. In this regard, one delegation supported the creation of a new post for the centre at Kathmandu while another delegation felt that the creation of a new post at this centre was not justified.

7. Some delegations questioned the justification for the reclassification proposed for the administrative officer of the Department, while others expressed their support.

8. Several delegations expressed appreciation of the disarmament fellowships programme and suggested that the Committee might review the programme with a view to strengthening this activity. Another delegation questioned the costs associated with this programme.

9. While some delegations queried the continuing subvention made from the regular budget to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), several other delegations supported the Institute and its work. Several delegations expressed the opinion that the subvention to UNIDIR should be of a recurrent nature. Other delegations queried whether intensive efforts had been made to attract more voluntary contributions for the Institute.

Conclusion and recommendation

10. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 5 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.